ISSUE 20

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

9-91

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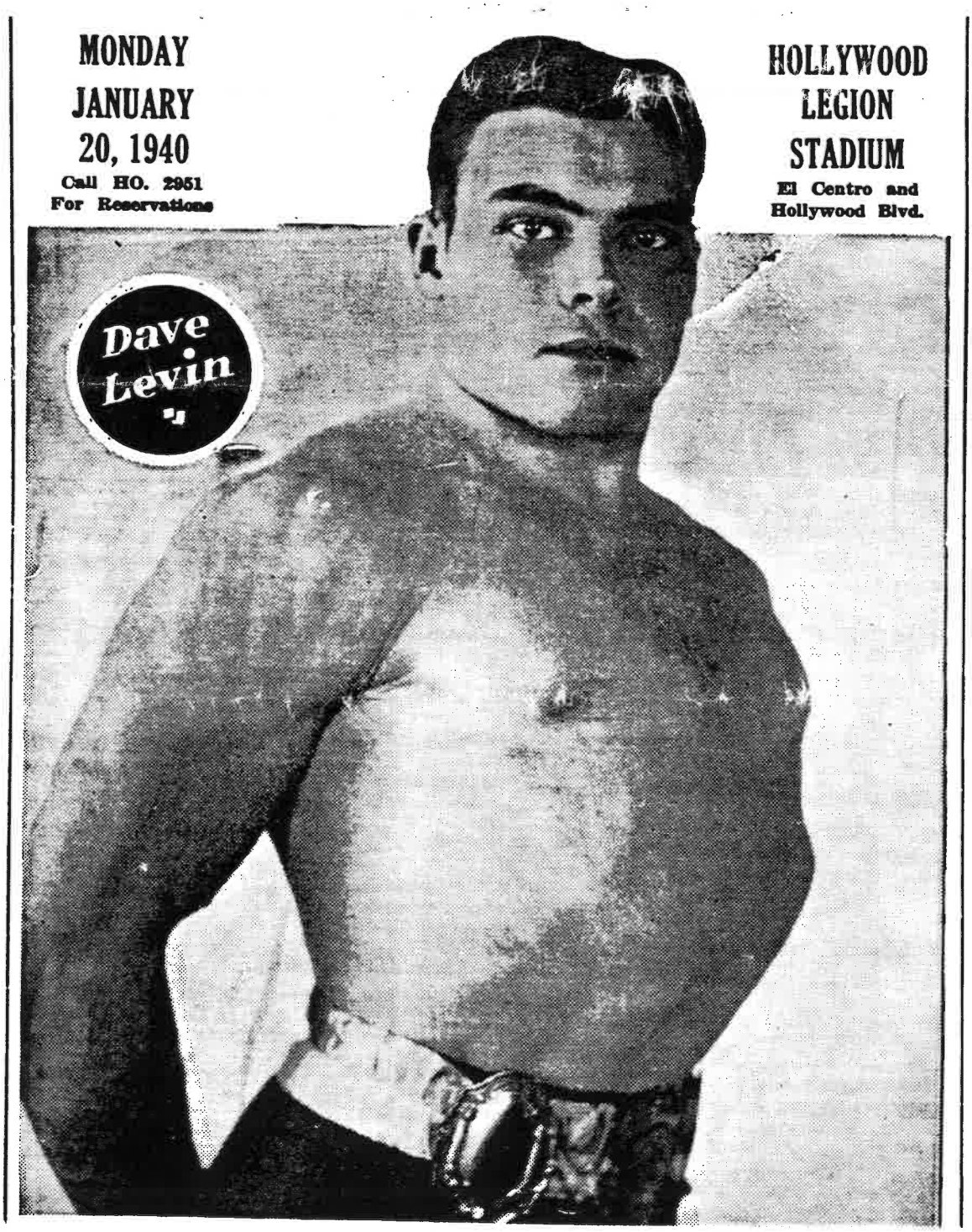

I really enjoy reading your publication. I miss wrestling the way it was back in the 60s-70s. Here in Seattle we're experience a wrestling drought. We haven't had a live card here in about a year- and that was a WWF show. Forget about the NWA; they haven't been here in 3 or 4 years. We used to have the PNW from Portland, Or. putting on shows on a monthly basis but they stopped about 3 years ago also, along with broadcasting their TV card to our area. It's like being on Gilligan's Island! We're stuck with NWA and WWF TV shows. We do get USWA but that comes on at 1:00 PM weekdays on ESPN, Mon.- Thurs. Not a great time to catch it if you have an 8-5 job, and your spouse tapes As The World Turns at that time! What's a wrestling fan to do? You'd think Seattle, being a major city- sort of- would be able to get a good independent promotion or at least a live NWA card in the next decade.

I remember in the late 60s-70s we got live cards here from both Portland, Or. and Vancouver, B.C., Canada, as well as a promotion from Spokane that lasted only a couple of years. In fact, the Spokane promotion was written about in your June issue profiling such wrestlers as Ripper Collins, Bobo Mongol and others. I have many great memories from those days of wrestlers like Lonnie Mayne, Tough Tony Borne, The Von Steiger Bros., etc., as well as wrestlers from Vancouver, B.C., Canada such as John Tolos, Gene Kiniski, Dutch Savage, Bulldog Bob Brown, Don Leo Jonathan, The Brute (Buggsie McGraw), etc. I can also recall that promotion featuring the Original Hell's Angels- Chris Colt and Ron Dupree. Ron got hurt and quit wrestling, then became involved with public relations for the group before he died while announcing a card in Tacoma. They were a great tag-team and will be missed. When I read the bit about Ripper Collins it brought back a bad memory. I went to a card in Aberdeen, Wa. back in '72 or so. Collins was then with the Portland group. After he dispatched Al Madril, he ventured into the crowd looking for trouble and came right at my brother and I. We were merely booing his actions, but that was it. He got right in our faces, saying he was going to smack us. I just sat there, stunned, hoping he'd take off. At that moment, a pregnant woman about 21 years old, made the error of pushing him. He shoved her hard, sending her flipping backwards over the second row, and yelled, "Don't touch me, baby!" Then a kid about 12 pushed him and Collins chased him through the entire section of bleachers as the fans parted like the red sea. A riot nearly ensued before order was restored. The whole thing could have easily been avoided. Sress-related burnout? Probably!

Thanks for listening and take care.

MARK MARKLEY
SEATTLE WASHINGTON

I thirst for knowledge of wrestling from the 70s (especially NWA- Florida, Ga., Texas- all Southern states). I am interested in title changes during that period. I am trying to find the date Ric Flair and Rip Hawk won the Mid-Atlantic Tag Belts (1974- sometime) from Paul Jones and Bobby Bruggers. This was Ric's first title and I'm doing a title history on Ric Flair!

The best...

MIKE POCHUSKI
MOHNTON, PA.

Please renew my subscription to WT&N, this time for a year. As a 40 year old wrestling fan I enjoy your publication as it brings back some memories and runs some interesting pieces. While I rarely watch WWF shows on tv, I do follow them in the sheets. McMahon's approach is too obviously a kiddie show; I prefer my wrestling to have at least a minimal illusion of reality. I guess you can tell I come from the old days.

I do enjoy the NWA and occasionally attend their house shows. A sattelite dish keeps me in touch with the UWF and ICW- World Class. For the first time in a long time I am excited about what I see happening in these independents. Let's hope they grow and become viable alternatives to the WWF.

DON GENE SMITH
MATOON, ILL.

Pro wrestling is a fraud! I called the box office number listed on the cover of issue #17 to order tickets for the Danny McShain/Red Berry match, and the woman there said she had never heard of them! When are you going to start printing stuff about REAL wrestlers, instead of imaginary ones? That McShain could never have been a wrestler...the breasts aren't big enough. Also, he has chest hair. None of the main event wrestlers I see on tv have chest hair. He also has a deformed ear. So does Red Berry on page 7. You name one big wrestling star today who's got a deformed ear. You see? There's nobody like that. Get real.

EMIL LATELLA
GADSDEN, AL.

Your rag is great. I love the good old days of wrestling. I can't believe Vince is getting as bad as he is on Prime Time. I used to love TNT, but this sucks. Hang in there. Good job.

ANDY NOVAK
WILMINGTON, DE.

I just recieved issue #17 of WT&N and must confess that I'm hooked. The improvements were great and have only added more depth to your already fine publication.

I'm enclosing a check so you can send me all your back issues.

It is definitely more fun reliving and, in most cases, learning about the glorious days of a bygone era. An era when professional wrestling somehow was a lot more fun that it is today.

I'll be eagerly watching my mailbox awaiting the arrival of my back issues and of course looking forward to the future issues of Wrestling- Then and Now!

RON HUTCHISON
TORONTO, CANADA

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Those interested in studying to become a wrestler can contact the Sweet Daddy Siki/Ron Hutchison Pro Wrestling Training Center at PO Box 22523, Coxwell Postal Service, 300 Coxwell Ave., Tortonto Ont. M4L 3W7. They are also looking for any and all memorabilia related to Siki's great career- programs, videos, pix etc.).

I do like the new format better. The old newspaper ads and program pieces are great! I guess Tom Burke has been criticized for over-using this sort of thing, but I enjoy them. If nothing else, the ads can tell you a lot- who was working in what territory when, who was programmed with who, what the booking was like as far as gimmicks, etc., goes (great example: the card from Waco with Albano and Butcher Vachon that had the main-event a 3-man tag featuring everybody from the preliminary matches!) Besides, they have an instant nostalgia impact nothing can beat. Please give us a page or two of these every month. I realize I may be a special case among your readers on this point- I'm a long-time (thirty year) HARDCORE (in terms of attendance, tv viewing, etc.) fan who just discovered "smart" fanzines a short while ago, and since I don't have a collectors stockpile of old Wrestling Reviews to study either, all the visual aids that others might find old-hat are fascinating to me. I think a 60-40 mix of text to photos, ads, etc. would be about right.

At the risk of revealing how new to fandom I am once again, have you ever read the enclosed by Thomas Wolfe (Editor's note: reprinted in issue #19- thanks Peter!)? I've seen no mention of it in any fanzine, which seems strange, because I'd think that a major American literary figure's description of the joys of being a mark (in circa 1915 North Carolina) would be the kind of thing everybody would quote constantly.

Thanks for all your efforts, and the best editorial attitude imaginable!

PETER SHANDORF
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

THE STARS OF THE PAST BY: A. NONYMOUS
AKRON ARMORY CIRCA 1950s

Wrestling at the old Akron Armory, demolished in the early 1980s was always hot and heavy, with ancient relic, promoter/front man Walter J. Moore, promoting there for around 3 decades. From the 1950s, some interesting characters emerged, worth recalling.

HANS SCHMIDT

One of the first post-war Nazi wrestlers, he was actually a French-Canadian named Guy Larose. In the 50s he had short, close-cropped hair and was not the bullet-headed bald man, that fans from the early 70s will remember him from his final years of activity. Tall, but not particularly muscular in size, he was at one time of the USA's most hated heels and certainly a key villain at the old Armory where WWII atrocities were still fresh in the minds of many. In one torrid bout with the youthful, equally hated Buddy Rogers in the early 50s, long before the Nature Boy's championship reign, Schmidt managed to turn the hated blonde rulebreaker into an instant babyface. Rogers received cheers at the start, when he gave his previously hated peacock walk, spat in Schmidt's corner, and punched him down. The cheers turned to jeers when Schmidt got up, walked over the Nature Boy's corner, grabbed him by his red-sequinned jacket, and let him have it too. Rogers won the first fall. Schmidt took the second with a brutal swinging neckbreaker a la Ken Patera twenty years later, and in the third fall, chaos broke out. The ringpost broke, the turnbuckles fell (probably unintended with the two ad-libbing) and the bout was stopped, with both men hitting and choking each other with ropes, turnbuckles, and whatever else they could use. Curious how Rogers, hated before, was cheered so loudly, when weeks before, he had taken unkindly to a female fan jeering him (perhaps a plant, perhaps not), strutted over to her seat, smirked, snatched her purse, dumped the contents on the floor, grinned, then strutted back to the ring.

MAN MOUNTAIN DEAN

A mountain man type long before the influx of lumberjacks, cowboys, trappers, and country boys. The only thing odd about this one was he didn't wear stupid Davy Crockett gear into the ring, but only standard long tights and regulation boots. He also had a thick beard. Also, unlike most trappers, country boys, and lumberjacks, this one was a heel of the first order. Little things like cheap shots, sucker punches, hair pulling, or a foot on the ropes gained him tremendous heat, which would never gain such a reaction in this day and age. Often duplicated, but never truly equalled.

BILL MILLER

The Fremont, Ohio vet who rocketed on the scene and mauled over all comers. It was sad to see him in 1972 or so, still hanging in along with brother Danny, Hans Schmidt, and other relics from the past, and on the opening bout for one of Walter Moore's shows, in which he and Schmidt went to a 15 minute draw. Some 15 years before, it would have been a sell-out anywhere in the country. The bout, for what it's worth, was a throwback to days gone by and basically unappreciated by the younger fans in the crowd.

PRIMO CARNERA

Used following his boxing career, mainly to capitalize on drawing power to boxing fans who normally wouldn't have been caught dead at a wrestling match and to pull in the Italian-American crowd, a la Sammartino later, "Der Preem" as he was often called, was always a popular attraction, although boxing critics knocked him endlessly for making the transition from one ring to another. Carnera may have been a better wrestler than a boxer, something boxing fans would sneer at. More of a roughouse baby than a true, good sport, he fought dirty right back against those who wrestled him, often, to the delight of the crowd, squaring off with his old boxing stance or throwing punches when riled. Once attacked a referee and ripped his pants off after a bum decision. An old Humphrey Bogart movie, The Harder They Fall, is based on his career as is Rod Serling's famous Requiem For A Heavyweight. It is also funny, then and now, to hear boxing critics decry wrestling as fake, when they fail to see the true picture in their own back yard. It is curious how Carnera, like so many other boxers turned wrestlers, could make an easy transitions from "shooter" to "worker" so fast, but that's another topic all together.

All Time Top Arena Experiences

by Vic Stanley

Beatles at Comiskey Park. Even at this early age, I was steadfastly defiant, screaming for the opening act, The Cyrkle (Red Rubber Ball) to do an encore. Unfortunately, this was the first of many times in my life that I have been severely beaten by several females at once. I guess they were anxious to see the Beatles. I couldn't see or hear anything of the Fab Four, but I witnessed several pubescent girls wetting their pants during the course of this brief but memorable concert. A similiar situation occurred at a Henry Mancini concert I attended at the Arie Crown Theater in 1973, but the women involved were all middle aged. Both instances had a profound impact on my life.

Gagne vs Bockwinkle at the International Amphitheater. AWA World Title on the line back when it really meant something. Double Gushers o' Plasma tonight. The Red Cross Blood Booth was doing brisk business, second only to Orange Whip. Even the audience was bleeding. The match ended as a 40 minute draw, but not a single fan felt cheated. In their prime, these guys were great! Also on the bill was the great Pepper Gomez, who allowed somebody to drive a Volkswagon over his stomach. A great childhood memory.

Electric Light Orchestra in Chicago. During the second encore song "Do Ya?", cellist Michael Edwards replaced his bow with a large orange. Furiously sawing away on the coarse strings with a citrus fruit, Michael was able to provide the first 3 rows with their daily minimum requirement of vitamin C. I was in the second row. A seed lodged itself under my eyelid and my eye got infected, but I didn't sue anybody.

Jack Benny's last concert in Waukegan, Il. I remember my father taking me to the show at the last minute. We got there late and the line was very long. The show sold out before we got to the ticket counter. I never got within 300 feet of Benny. I am haunted by the knowledge that I missed out on hearing the mellifluous and dulcet tones of his sweet fiddle, and I wonder, would he have also played with an orange?

Ringling Brothers Circus at Rosemont Horizon, Winter 1979. The up side - I was with a woman whom I liked very much. The down side - I locked my keys in the car. It was 10 degrees below zero and the parking lot was a mile long. Once we finally got inside, there was a row of ill mannered, screaming kids directly behind us which was very distracting. Children shouldn't be allowed in the circus! The atmosphere also suffered from the absence of a traditional 3 ring circus tent in the middle of July back in the good old days. I guess that some experiences are better left as childhood memories. There was no freak show, either.

Chicago White Sox vs Boston Red Sox, Comiskey Park, 1973 season The only memorable aspect of this game was that shortly after, my then girl friend and I broke up. She then started going out with Ken Kravec - a pitcher for the White Sox. In my misery, I fell into the arms of an exotic dancer named Tina, who had previously had a bad experience with a baseball player. Ever see "Bull Durham"? The locker room was apparently very interesting even before the dawn of female reporters. Tina rekindled feelings in me that I had not experienced since the Beatles concert. Some stories have happy endings.

My own rock band in 1976 playing an outdoor Biker Festival at a race track in Union Grove, Wi. We were announced as "The band from Barrington who I am sure will play ALL your favorites!" The highlight of the evening was a riot which erupted between 2 rival gangs - The Born Losers and the Booze Runners. The trouble started when a Born Loser made a nasty remark about one of the Booze Runner chicks' new tattoos. I seem to recall that it was an obscene Woody Woodpecker. In this single instance in my musical career, the stage was the safest place to be for avoiding flying bottles and debris. We quickly packed up our equipment and, as the police arrived, we fled without getting paid. To my suprise, a week later, I received a paycheck for $500.00 which promptly bounced all the way back to Kenosha.

FACTSHEET 5 RAVES ABOUT WT&N'S VIC STANLEY!!!

☐A STREAM OF SEMI-CONSCIOUSNESS #1 ($3 *CASH* from Vic Stanley, PO Box 176, Lafayette, IN 47902-0176): This one was somewhat of a sleeper, appearing in a no-frills, no-graphics format. But Vic's writing is an instant winner. Coming out of the wrestling sheets, he expands his view here to all of trash culture, starting with an essay on his own sordid adolescence (spent in part growing up in strip joints). He writes of the subversive anti-Christian nature of *Star Trek*, reveals a bunch of extremely unlikely movie sequels, and blasts the hosts of his least favorite talk shows. Also included in this issue is the first installment of "Mayberry Peaks", combining Andy Griffith with David Lynch. (S-28/MG)

INTERVIEW WITH AFA, THE WILD SAMOAN BY BILLIE JESSEE

6/6/91

BILLIE: Afa, let's start this interview by telling the fans where you were born.

AFA: I was born on the small island of Samoa, in the South Pacific, south of Hawaii.

BILLIE: At what age did you come to the United States?

AFA: I came here back in the early 1970's.

BILLIE: Would you tell us something about your amateur wrestling background?

AFA: I really didn't have that experience as far as amateur background. But, I wish I did. I recommend to all the kids to prepare themselves. To have amateur background is much, much better than what I did. You see, me and my brother, Sika, did it the hard way. We did't have any amateur background because we were raised up in the islands.

BILLIE: The Wild Samoans were one of the greatest tag-teams in the WWF. Would you tell us who you were trained by and who you credit as having the biggest influence on you, in your early career?

AFA: Capt. Lou Albano. He was the one who actually discovered us in the islands. I started first and then my brother came into wrestling about a year later. But, I was actually trained by a German wrestler by the name of Curt Von Steiger, out of Arizona. That was in the late '60's-early '70's. My brother, Sika, joined me about 1-1 1/2 later and that was when we hooked up as a tag-team and the rest is history.

BILLIE: How long have you been wrestling?

AFA: We started hitting the road in the early '70's in Canada.

BILLIE: You have wrestled both in the major leagues and the independents. How do you feel about the independents as oppossed to the major leagues?

AFA: Well, I believe strongly in the independent promotions. They are much, much better because they are able to reach all the fans. What we call the major leagues go only to the big arenas, etc. The independents, on the other hand, are able to come right into your small town, the high schools, etc. Somehow, the major leagues have gotten so big that they have forgotten the little people and most of all, the fans, who are the ones who put them where they are. I am for the independents, myself.

BILLIE: Where are you wrestling now?

AFA: We have an organization called Trans World Wrestling Federation and we go just about everywhere. Capt. Lou Albano is also involved in it. Trans World used to be based out of CT. but is now based in Allentown, PA.

BILLIE: What titles have you held during your long career?

AFA: As everybody knows, me and my brother, Sika, held the WWF Tag Team titles on 3 different occasions. We have also won the International Tag Team titles for 18 times, throughout our career.

BILLIE: Afa, as you know, the use of steriods has become a major topic in the wrestling circle. How do you feel about the use of steroids?

AFA: Steroids are not good for anybody. I do think that most of the wrestlers today in the WWF take steroids. You know, some of the wrestlers today, get on TV and preach - 'Don't take steroids' - and they are taking them themselves. Personally, I am very much against steroids and drugs. I believe in getting your muscles the hard way..by hard work.

BILLIE: Have you always wrestled tag team?

AFA: Well, yes, I would say at least 90% of the time, with my brother, Sika. I really prefer wrestling as a tag team.

BILLIE: Do you think that some tag team wrestlers get so accustomed to having a tag team partner that is has an effect on their single matches?

AFA: Oh yes, oh yes, because some wrestlers specialize in tag team wrestling. I have experienced that myself. You know, I can handle myself pretty good as a single, but I prefer going as a tag team. There is a big, big difference in tag team wrestling and single matches.

BILLIE: Do you have any relatives in wrestling, other than your brother, Sika?

AFA: Yes, there are about 6 of us, all together. My son, Samu, who wrestles with the Samoan Swat Team, one of my nephews was the Tonga Kid, and I have another nephew who is 400 lbs.+ who is wrestling in and out of Japan and also in Mexico at the present time. His name is Maxima Kokina.

BILLIE: What kind of workout do you have?

AFA: Well, I try to work out in the gym everyday, and spend some time in the ring each day. This has to be a steady thing. You cannot work out once or twice a week and expect to keep yourself in good shape.

BILLIE: What do you think are some of the major reasons that attendance to live shows have been so low?

AFA: Well, I blame that on the WWF. From about 5-6 years back, wrestling was REAL wrestling. Today, they try to push entertainment and that is a lot of the cause for the low attendance. The fans are not coming out and supporting wrestling, like they used to. They like to have fun but they also like the serious wrestling. Now, you have to have a snake, a dog. . . in other words, you have to have a gimmick. Serious fans get fed up with that. They like the rough type of wrestling like we had 5-10 years ago.

BILLIE: If you had to choose one wrestler who you feel is the ULTIMATE wrestler in pro wrestling today, who would it be?

AFA: My son, Samu, SST. I don't think there are many wrestlers who can compete with my son. I'm not saying it because he's my son but he is a true wrestler, you know. People who have seen him wrestle would agree with me. He's one of the best, if not the best around. But again, most of the big leagues don't use him because you have to do things their way or not at all. There's no way!!!

BILLIE: I agree with you. That's a sad fact, though.

AFA: Yes, it's a very sad thing.

BILLIE: You know, there is so much good talent in the independent promotions.

AFA: Oh yes, there certainly is. The big leagues are only out for the big bucks and hurt the people who have supported wrestling for many years. Now, all of a sudden, they are too good to go to the small towns. The independents go to the small towns and the wrestlers spend a lot of time signing autographs, like myself. I do a lot of visiting to the hospitals, talking to the kids about wrestling. You could ask Hulk Hogan or the Ultimate Warrior to go to the hospitals to see the kids and they never have time unless they get paid big money for it. That is one of the big differences between the big leagues and the independents. The indies are not like that. We are on a more personal level with the fans and I like that and the fans really enjoy it, too.

BILLIE: What are some of your immediate plans?

AFA: I don't think I'll be wrestling much longer. I've been wrestling almost 20 years, now and we have a training center. The name of the center is The Wild Samoan Pro-Wrestling Training Center and the address is 719 Jordan Pkwy., Whitehall, PA, ph. 215-435-1666. I have a lot of good students and future stars in my training center. Not only that, but I have wrestling stars who come in, on occasion, and help train these guys, such as the SST, Samoan Swat Team, Bam Bam Bigelow, Paul Ornderff and JYD. They stop in once in awhile to help out. Right now we are devoting most of our time to the kids. The training center here in PA helps keep the kids off the street. I would rather they train with me and hopefully they will choose wrestling as their career, like me. I didn't know it was going to be my career but the business has been very good to me and we just want to pass this along to the kids, today. My brother, Sika, also has a wrestling school in Pensacola, Fl. He can be contacted at 124 Vassar Dr., Pensacola, Fl, 32506, phone..904-453-6264.

BILLIE: Looking back over your long career, what would you say is the one single accomplishment that you are most proud of?

AFA: To become what I am and have the chance to talk to those kids, especially the sick kids in the hospitals. This is something I thought would never happen. It's a big thing for me and I do it everyday and the kids really listen to me.

BILLIE: You've seen wrestling change quite a bit, over the years. How does todays wrestlers compare to the grapplers when you first began wrestling?

AFA: Oh, big difference..big, big difference. As I mentioned earlier, todays wrestling is mostly entertainment. They get rid of the people that are good for wrestling. Today, if you have a good body, you don't have to know how to wrestle. If you are good-looking and the promoter thinks he can do something with you, they will take you before they take the really good wrestler...one who has devoted all his life to the sport. In the past, the promoters didn't care how you looked, just as long as you could wrestle.

BILLIE: It's too bad that wrestling can't get back to that.

AFA: Yes, it is! But, I think it will, in time. The wrestling fans know who the real wrestlers are.

BILLIE: How do you feel about the State Athletic Commissions?

AFA: I am in favor of them in a lot of ways, you know. It does protect the wrestlers in case of injuries but on the other hand, I don't favor them because they listen to the major leagues before they listen to the independents. You know what I mean...they look at us independents like we are small people and that's just because we don't go out there and kiss there ass and what have you. And then, too, sometimes the big leagues buy them off so they will do things their way and the independents don't. It's ok to have them but it's ok for me not to have them, too, you know.

BILLIE: Afa, the fans are always interested in a bit of the wrestlers personal life and stats. How tall are you and what do you weigh?

AFA: I am 6'1 1/2" tall and weigh 298 lbs.

BILLIE: Would you tell the fans if you are married and have a family?

AFA: I used to be married but I think a lot of the problems arose as a result of the extensive traveling, etc. Wrestling should really be for a single man not only because of the traveling but they meet so many different types of people and they are on the road most of the time. It's really hard to have a family life.

BILLIE: Do you have children? How many?

AFA: Yes, I have 5 children. I have 3 daughters and 2 sons. One of my sons is Samu, who is the oldest and then my youngest son, Little Afa, Jr. is 7 yrs old. He already knows how to wrestle and he's better than most of the guys who wrestle in the business today.

BILLIE: When is your birthday?

AFA: My birthday is Nov. 21.

BILLIE: When did you make your wrestling debut?

AFA: I started out in Phoenix, AZ, as I told you earlier, but my first big wrestling match was in Calgary, Canada against the Mongolian Stomper, approximately in 1972. I'm sorry, but I really don't know the exact date. Mongolian Stomper is one of the guys that has been good for the business along with Abdullah the Butcher and others. Those are the guys that people really enjoy watching. They wrestle rough. None of this gimmick stuff with bringing dogs and snakes to the ring, etc.

BILLIE: Everybody knows that the Samoans were one of the best tag-teams the WWF ever had and was in the WWF for years. What other promotions have you worked for?

AFA: I have worked some for the NWA but it's the same thing as the WWF. They make you sign contracts..in other words, they want to own you. When you work for them, you can't work anywhere else. That's one of the reasons I like the independent promotions. See, when you're in the big leagues, they tell you where to go and what to do. I have wrestled all over the world, during my career.

BILLIE: What is your favorite move?

AFA: Of course, the Samoan Drop.

BILLIE: When you're not wrestling, what do you like to do in your spare time?

AFA: I go fishing, spend some time with my boy and I like to take him fishing with me, take him to school and pick him up and basically, spend as much quality-time as I can with him. In the early years, it was hard to find time to spend with my family because I was on the road most of the time...when I was wrestling full time. But, for the last 5-6 years, I have been home most of the time and I must say, it feels good. When my older children were growing up, they were always with me, but we were always on the road. They are all grown-up now except little Afa. It's different with him, you see, I am here all the time and get to watch him grow. That is very important to me.

BILLIE: I understand you have also appeared in some movies. Tell us about them.

AFA: Yes, again I have been fortunate. Capt. Lou got us our contracts started through Cyndi Lauper. We have made a couple of movies with the Capt. and have also appeared in the TV series, Miami Vice. I also did a couple of videos with Cyndi Lauper and Laura Brennagan.

BILLIE: Haven't you done some TV commercials, too?

AFA: Yes, I did. In fact, I did a tennis shoe commercial with Hulk Hogan in Boston, Mass and a furniture commercial, where I would break the furniture over my head and also did a couple of commercials for car dealers.

BILLIE: Afa, do you have any hobbies?

AFA: I'm a fisherman...that's about it. A big-time fisherman.

BILLIE: What's the biggest one you ever caught?

AFA: Once I caught a 160 lb tuna. Me and my good friend, Yukon Jack are out tuna fishing most of the summer. It's good to get away from it all, you know. I trained Yukon Jack to wrestle. He is another one of the good men in wrestling that's been good for the business.

BILLIE: What would you say has been your most embarrassing moment?

AFA: Once I was at the airport and I suddenly discovered that my wife hadn't packed my wrestling clothes. I had no wrestling tights to wear. She had to catch a taxi, rush through the Newark traffic to the airport, where I was waiting to catch a plane, to bring me my wrestling tights.

BILLIE: What is your favorite type of music?

AFA: I'm a country music guy, Billie.

BILLIE: Great!! Me, too. Who is your favorite country singers or groups?

AFA: I guess Kenny Rogers and Willie Nelson are my favorites. I like those country guys, a lot.

BILLIE: What is your favorite food?

AFA: I like it all, but one of my favorites is chicken.

BILLIE: What advice would you give to the young guys just beginning in the business?

AFA IN ACTION!

AFA: My advice is to stay away from drugs and alcohol. They will get you nowhere. It might feel good at that moment, but later down the line, it will get to you. Stay away from steriods...if wrestling is what you really want, you have to believe in it and have a true desire for it. Put your heart into it and chances are, you'll be ok. Most of all-respect your parents!

BILLIE: Afa, would you like to add anything else to this interview closing?

AFA: Well, Billie, just to thank you for giving me this chance to talk with you. If there are young people out there who choose wrestling as a career, I would like to say to them...GO FOR IT! Don't wait... because time will not wait for anyone. It's much easier now to get into wrestling...not like when I first started. We had no wrestling schools and there are schools everywhere, now. I love wrestling... I recommend it. As I mentioned earlier, I would rather have my son involved in wrestling than standing out on the street corner and getting mixed up with the wrong people.

BILLIE: Thank you very much, Afa, for taking the time to talk with me and we wish you the very best.

AFA: The pleasure has been all mine, Billie. Anytime.

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Madison Square Garden
New York, N.Y.
Monday, October 17, 1983

Tonight's Official Line-up

Main Event...for the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship, one fall, one hour time limit

BOB BACKLUND Princeton, Minnesota...234 lbs. (WWF CHAMPION) -VS- **THE MASKED SUPERSTAR** Atlanta, Georgia...269 lbs. (CHALLENGER)

Return Inter-Continental Title Match to be held inside a steel cage

THE MAGNIFICENT MURACO Sunset Beach, Hawaii 247 lbs. (CHAMPION) -VS- **JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA** Fiji Islands...250 lbs. (CHALLENGER)

ANDRE THE GIANT Grenoble, France 494 lbs -VS- **SAMOAN #1** Samoa...299 lbs

IVAN PUTSKI Krakow, Poland 235 lbs -VS- **SGT. SLAUGHTER** South Carolina 296 lbs.

ROCKY JOHNSON Washington, D.C. -VS- **SAMOAN #2** Samoa 298 lbs

TITO SANTANA Tecula, Mexico 244 lbs -VS- **IRON MIKE SHARPE** Hamilton, Canada 292 lbs

THE INVADERS Puerto Rico 460 lbs -VS- **ISRAEL MATIA** Dominican Republic 280 lbs **&** **BUTCHER VACHON** Canada 291 lbs

S.D. JONES Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 238 lbs -VS- **TIGER CHUNG LEE** Korea 245 lbs

Plus other All-Star bouts, featuring such stars as Tony Garea, Rene Goulet and Mike Graham.

TV Wrestling.....WOR-TV9
Saturdays 10 A.M. & Midnight

SHEA STADIUM — **SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th, 1980**

TONIGHT'S OFFICIAL LINE-UP

The Main Event - Steel Cage Match

BRUNO SAMMARTINO Abruzzi, Italy vs. **LARRY ZBYSZKO** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Battle Of The Super-Heavyweights

THE FABULOUS HULK HOGAN Venice Beach, California vs. **ANDRE THE GIANT** Paris, France

Inter-Continental Heavyweight Championship

KEN PATERA Portland, Oregon "Champion" vs. **TONY ATLAS** Roanoke, Virginia "Challenger"

World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship

THE SAMOAN #1 Samoa and **THE SAMOAN #2** Samoa "Champions" vs. Lose Titles To **PEDRO MORALES** Puerto Rico and **BOB BACKLUND** Princeton, Minnesota "Challengers"

National Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship

LARRY SHARPE Paulsboro, New Jersey "Challenger" vs. **ANYONIO INOKI** Tokyo, Japan "Champion"

World Wrestling Federation Junior Heavyweight Championship

CHAVO GUERRERO Mexico "Challenger" vs. **TATSUMI "DRAGON" FUJINAMI** Japan "Champion"

TOR KAMATA Japan vs. **PAT PATTERSON** San Francisco, California

GREG GAGNE Mound, Minnesota vs. **RICK McGRAW** Charlotte, North Carolina

THE HANGMAN Europe vs. **RENE GOULET** Nice, France

Special Ladies Tag Team Match

BEVERLY SLADE Kansas City and **KANDI MALOY** Greenville, South Carolina vs. **THE FABULOUS MOOLAH** Columbia, South Carolina and **PEGGY LEE** Chicago, Illinois

JOHNNY RODZ New York City vs. **IVAN PUTSKI** Krakow, Poland

BARON MIKEL SCICLUNA Isle of Malta vs. **DOMENIC DeNUCCI** Italy

JOSE ESTRADA Puerto Rico vs. **ANGEL MARVILLA** Santa Domingo

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN — **MONDAY, APRIL 26th, 1982**

TONIGHT'S OFFICIAL LINE-UP

The Main Event — One Fall or 60 Minutes — For The WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

BOB BACKLUND Princeton, Minnesota 234 lbs. Champion vs. **IVAN KOLOFF** Russia 274 lbs. Challenger

Special Event — One Fall or 60 Minutes

ANDRE THE GIANT Grenoble, France 479 lbs vs. **"BIG" JOHN STUDD** Los Angeles 364 lbs.

INTER-CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP — One Fall or 60 Minutes

THE MAGNIFICENT MURACO Sunset Beach, Hawaii 275 lbs. "Champion" vs. **ROCKY JOHNSON** Washington, D.C. 244 lbs. "Challenger"

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP — Two Out Of Three Falls — One Hour Time Limit

THE WILD SAMOANS AFA & SIKA 598 lbs. Samoan Islands Champions vs. **THE STRONGBOW BROTHERS CHIEF JAY & JULES** 500 lbs. Pawhuska, Oklahoma Challengers

JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA 250 lbs. Fiji Islands vs. **SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM** 260 lbs. Paradise Valley, Arizona

TONY GAREA 242 lbs. Auckland, New Zealand vs. **RAY "THE CRIPPLER" STEVENS** 238 lbs. San Francisco, Calif.

SWEDE HANSON 321 lbs. Slaughter Creek, N.C. vs. **PEDRO MORALES** 250 lbs., Culebra, Puerto Rico

"IRON" MIKE SHARPE 285 lbs. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada vs. **JOHNNY RODZ** 239 lbs., New York City

MR. FUJI 275 lbs., Osaka, Japan vs. **"SPECIAL DELIVERY" JONES** 237 lbs., Philadelphia, Pa.

BARON MIKEL SCICLUNA 273 lbs., Isle of Malta vs. **SALVATORE BELLOMO** 253 lbs., Italy

JOSE ESTRADA 225 lbs., Brooklyn, N.Y. vs. **EDDIE GILBERT** 212 lbs. Lexington, Tennessee

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MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
MONDAY, APRIL 21st, 1980
OFFICIAL LINE-UP OF MATCHES

DOUBLE MAIN EVENT

LARRY ZBYSZKO Pittsburgh, Pa. vs. **BRUNO SAMMARTINO** Abruzzi, Italy 16:54

THE SAMOAN #1 Samoa vs. Lost To **BOB BACKLUND** Princeton, Minnesota

Inter-Continental Heavyweight Championship

KEN PATERA Portland, Oregon "Challenger" vs. Def. **PAT PATTERSON** San Francisco, California "Champion" 20:48

THE FABULOUS HULK HOGAN Venice Beach, California vs. Def. **RENE GOULET** Nice, France 5:38

THE SAMOAN #2 Samoa vs. Def. **DOMENIC DeNUCCI** Italy 9:27

JOSE ESTRADA Puerto Rico vs. :53 **GREG GAGNE** Mound, Minnesota

Tag Team Match

"BULLDOG" BROWER Toronto, Canada and **TOR KAMATA** Japan vs. **RICKY STEAMBOAT** Honolulu, Hawaii and **JAY YOUNGBLOOD** New Mexico

LARRY SHARPE Paulsboro, New Jersey vs. **MIKE MASTERS** Carney, New Jersey

BONUS MATCH!

"BIG BAD" BOBBY DUNCUM Austin, Texas vs. **ANDRE THE GIANT** Paris, France

THE FIRST BOUT STARTS AT 8:30 P.M.

REFLECTIONS ON CHICAGO WRESTLING - 1971 by Ronald Dobratz

There were never more wrestling shows held at the International Amphitheatre than the 19 promoted by Bob Luce in 1971. And with the exceptions of Friday June 4, Tuesday November 9, and Thursday December 30, they were all held on Saturdays.

Variety was the key word for 1971. 31 of wrestling's top stars (the majority of which would appear on fan lists of the greatest wrestlers of the decade) made appearances in Chicago during 1971. There was also much variety in the preliminary bouts because Luce brought in 26 additional wrestlers to appear on the lower portion of his cards. There was not only variety, but competition, as the opposition was usually paired so it was difficult to predict who would win.

The year's least memorable great tag team in the AWA was the combination of Larry Hennig & Lars Anderson, who boasted they would soon become the tag team champions because they possessed "the secret". In a studio bout against Pepper Gomez & Red Bastien, the television cameras recorded the only secret they had - brassknuckles which they effectively used on Gomez. Thus entered the most memorable American Wrestling Association wrestler of 1971 - Hercules Cortez - who refused to stand idly by as Pepper took a terrible beating.

On February 13, Cortez & Bastien fell victim to the double-teaming tactics of Hennig & Anderson at the Amphitheatre, but they won a March 6 rematch by disqualification. It led them into the title picture, facing Al Costello's revised team of the Fabulous Kangaroos. Cortez & Bastien wrestled to a no contest with Costello, his new partner-"Bulldog Don Kent, and new manager-George "Crybaby Cannon" on March 20, but won their "no disqualification" rematch three weeks later.

Cortez & Bastien also wrestled to a no contest with the world champion Vachon brothers on April 24. When they were finally rematched in Chicago on June 26, the muscular Spaniard & high-flying redhead were wearing the tag team belts they had won from the Mad Dog & Butcher in Milwaukee on May 15. Chicagoans watched the Vachons lose their first title match at the Amphitheatre in nearly two years to Cortez & Bastien, who were back three weeks later to battle Baron Von Raschke & Hans Schmidt.

The Baron, who was the leading German villain of the 1970s, just as Hans had been during the hey-days of televised wrestling from Marigold in the fifties, had scored two victories over Wilbur Snyder, leading up to their title match. Schmidt & Von Raschke beat Wilbur & Haystacks Calhoun on May 15, and Snyder & Moose Cholak on June 4.

The Germans defeated the tag champs by disqualification on July 17. Disturbed by the frequent interference, Hercules finally entered when a sure pin by his partner was nullified by yet another illegal entrance. Cortez jumped in and threw both opponents out of the ring over the top rope. It was the last opportunity Chicagoans had to witness the volatile temper of the Spanish strongman in action. Six nights later, Cortez died in an automobile wreck travelling from Winnipeg to St.Paul.

What had been scheduled as a championship rematch on August 7, turned into a non-title victory for the Baron & Schmidt against Bastien & Wilbur Snyder. The American Wrestling Alliance allowed Red to choose another partner to continue defending the tag team belts, and he chose Crusher Lisowski. Crusher proved his worth on August 28, as he and Bastien scored a clearcut win over Von Raschke & Schmidt.

Although all tag team matches, title and non-title, were still two out of three fall bouts in the AWA, matches involving heavyweight champion, Verne Gagne, were sometimes, but not always, one fall. Gagne's title bout with Edouard Carpentier on January 9 was only one fall. A great title bout, with both scientific stars having lost their temper, ended in a frustrating win for Carpentier. Edouard was standing on the second rope, punching down on Gagne who was trapped against the turnbuckle. The champion responded by grabbing Ed's legs and flipping him up and back, out of the ring onto the floor. Gagne's disqualification loss did not cause him to lose the title.

Japanese wrestler Shozo Kobayashi came to the United States and established his obvious superiority over Prince Pullins, Paul Diamond, Billy Red Cloud and Paul Christy in his first Amphitheatre bouts. With help from his manager, Stan "Big K" Kowalski, Kobayashi's illegal karate chops and kicks usually went undetected, however he was disqualified for using them against Red Bastien on January 23.

A 2-3 fall title bout between Kobayashi and Verne Gagne on April 10 ended with the champ ducking and the referee getting hit with a karate chop which disqualified his Japanese challenger. When Verne secured his sleeper hold on Kobayashi during the one fall rematch on May 15, the Big K leaped up on the apron, Gagne released the hold to go after him, and the referee ruled the bout a "no contest".

Dick the Bruiser was counted out chasing the Big K during his first bout with Kobayashi on April 24. Their June 4th rematch was fought with the special stipulation that the loser of the bout had to leave the U.S. for at least six months. After losing the first fall, Kobayashi resorted to using salt to blind Dick and even the contest. However when Shozo tried to do the same thing in the third fall, Bruiser managed to score with a kick first, that sent the salt flying up into Kobayashi's own eyes.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Top Wrestlers of 1952

ART BRADY—One time football ace on the Southern California varsity, and, later, with the Los Angeles Bulldogs . . . specializes in the pile-driver, on which he gets remarkable leverage from his six-foot-one height. Because of resemblance to the cartoon character, he has played in several Joe Palooka motion pictures.

NATIE BROWN—A Southern California footballer and a boxer for two decades before turning to the mat . . . In 1935, boxing promoter Mike Jacobs took a group of sports writers to Detroit to see a young negro named Joe Louis, whose knockout punch was already almost legendary . . . His opponent that night was Natie Brown . . . Natie went the route—ten rounds—but Louis was so impressive in winning the decision that Mike brought him to New York and launched his historic career.

GEORGE BRUCKMAN—Although an easterner (Washington, D. C.), Bruckman prefers the west for grappling . . . George, 36, served in the coast guard under Jack Dempsey during the war, then toured Japan and the Philippines before returning to U.S. mats.

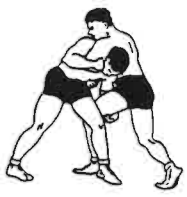
BOBBY BRUNS—Bobby's mother was Lotta Gunther, the Berlin opera diva; his father was a well-known engineer . . . Bobby attended Northwestern University and Southern California, is a lawyer, but prefers to wrestle . . . Starred on the U. S. 1932 Olympic water polo team . . . His most prized possession is a diamond ring presented him by the late Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago, murdered in the attempted assassination of President Roosevelt in 1932 . . . A protege of Jimmy Londos and specialist with the wristlock, Bruns held South American and South African Championships.

AL CALZA—Started out with a brief fling as a boxer, then a baseball tryout wit the New York Yankees . . . After that, 22-year old Al decided on the mat . . . A tall, dark and handsome New York boy.

LORD LESLIE CARLTON—A bona fide titled Briton and Oxford student . . . took up wrestling to regain his health after illness left him weighing 80 pounds . . . turned pro over family's objections . . . fought his first match in India, where he served under Lord Louis Mountbatten . . . The 33-year old blonde Briton enters the ring with monocle and valet . . . His split second divebomber dropkick is famous . . . Once ran up a string of over 200 straight wins.

JIM CASEY—Splendidly built 240-pounder . . . claims that in Ireland, he and three brothers won the rowboat championship of the world . . . (Rowboat—that's what the man said).

CHIEF LITTLE FOX—A Nez-Pierce Indian from British Columbia . . . attended New Westminster Indian College . . . His wrestling coach was the great Chief Thunderbird . . . Wears tribal haircut, with both sides of scalp shaved clean, leaving only a thatch on top.



Dan Miller, Doug Gilbert and Don Muraco were among the best preliminary wrestlers of 1971. In fact, Muraco, who beat Jack Bence, Ken Dillinger, Joe Turco, and wrestled to a draw with Gilbert, was named the AWA's "rookie of the year". Gilbert wrestled as the "Masked Professor" and scored pinfalls over George Gadaski and Dillinger. Dan Miller pulled an upset by defeating Bullinski, but didn't fare as well in his bout with Baron von Raschke.

Dan's big brother, Bill wrestled in 5 Amphitheatre bouts, with his only victory coming against Joe Blanchard. He was disqualified in bouts with Paul Christy and Bobby Heenan, and wrestled to a double disqualification with Moose Cholak.

Wilbur Snyder was the one wrestler to score a clearcut pinfall on Miller. Most of Snyder's wins came by disqualification in 1971, against Al Costello (who used a boomerang as a weapon and never let Wilbur get into the ring), Hans Schmidt, and BlackJack Lanza. Wilbur took a cheap win over his meanest foe, Mad Dog Vachon, as the referee counted the pin without notice Maurice's leg draped over the bottom rope.

Gene Kiniski and Ernie Ladd were the only two wrestlers bigger and meaner than Big Bill Miller to come to Chicago in 1971. Their August 28th bout ended with Kiniski going out on the apron to catch his breath, Ernie going out after him, and both men getting counted out.

English wrestling sensation, Billy Robinson, impressed Chicagoans in his June 26th debut by making veteran Angelo Poffo look like an inexperienced rookie before putting him away with a reverse suplex. Robinson was even more impressive in a televised studio bout against Kobayashi. However, Billy was pearl harbored by his defeated foe and big manager afterwards Kobayashi returned to Japan before Robinson could get even, but he was able to extract some revenge by defeating the Big K on July 17.

Robinson was also victimized by BlackJack Lanza and his manager Bobby Heenan at the AWA studio. Robinson was so incensed at Heenan, he accepted a 5 minute bout with the Brain, with the stipulation Heenan would be declared the winner if he had not been pinned or forced to submit with the brief time limit. Heenan proved just how shifty he could be on September 18, although if the bout would have lasted another second or two, Robinson's pinning maneuver would have been successful.

Heenan was not nearly as fortunate on March 6 when he was forced into signing a contract that stipulated if BlackJack Lanza lost to Dick the Bruiser in less than 20 minutes, he must spend 5 minutes in the ring with the "World's most dangerous wrestler". In spite of Heenan' interference and BlackJack's efforts to stall, Bruiser pinned Lanza at 12:20 to earn ringtime with the meddling manager. It was one of the goriest few minutes in Amphitheatre history, which ended mercifully in less than 5 minutes with the bloody, helpless Heenan hanging by his legs, upside down on the turnbuckle.

With the likes of Crybaby Cannon, Bobby Heenan and the Big K accompanying their wrestlers to ringside, Ivan Kalmikoff proved the exception to the rule. Half of the one-time top rated tag team of the Kalmikoff Brothers, Ivan managed the career of the Polish strongman, Igor Vodik. Not only did Igor defeat Butcher Vachon on January 23, Ivan consented to be the opponent for Nick Bockwinkel, who was making his Chicago debut. Bockwinkel defeated him by using a piledriver, just as he did Billy Red Cloud on his fourth Chicago appearance.

Bockwinkel defeated his second opponent, Prince Pullins in just 24 seconds. Pullins turned his back on Bockwinkel after shaking hands and started back to his corner, only to have Nick hit him on the back so hard he flew into the turnbuckle, bounced off and fell to the mat. Bockwinkel tried to duplicate the same maneuver on March 6, but it did not have the same effect on the Crusher, who dominated their bout until they were both counted out.

Bockwinkel headlined both Amphitheatre cards in August against Dick the Bruiser and did not suffer a clearcut loss, as both wrestlers were disqualified on August 7, and Bruiser alone was disqualified on August 28.

Nick's toughest Chicago bout was on July 17 against Ernie Ladd. Ladd earned his disqualification loss as he picked Nick up by the throat, held him at arms' length, and refused to let go.

Bockwinkel's glib talk and haughty style incited the fans. The disdain in which he treated such opponents as Bull Bullinski and Seaman Art Thomas made him the perfect opponent for Verne Gagne. The two headlined the November 9th card, which Bockwinkel won by disqualification when Gagne threw him over the top rope. Bockwinkel lost their December 30th rematch, after clamping a fullnelson on the champion. Nick intended to ram Verne headfirst into the turnbuckle, but Gagne kicked off the turnbuckle sending both men to the mat. It was hard to tell whose shoulders were on the mat and who was able to bridge off, but the referee ruled in favor of Gagne which caused the challenger to go into an irate frenzy.

Joining Robinson, Bockwinkel, Kobayashi and Cortez as top wrestling stars making their first Chicago appearances were Ivan Koloff and Ray Stevens. Koloff, who held the WWWF championship for 3 weeks in the early part of 1971, manhandled Bullinski in his first Amphitheatre bout on November 9. Stevens' first bout was against Paul Christy on September 18. On November 20, Stevens teamed with Nick Bockwinkel for the first time and almost took the tag team title away from Bastien & the Crusher in a bout the referee lost control of, and finally declared a "no contest". →

PROGRAM

DOC SARPOLIS, PROMOTER
STANLEY BLACKBURN, ROY GREENHILL, Commissioners
DR. WOOLWORTH RUSSELL, Ring Examiner
LES KILGORE, Timekeeper
Bill Fairley, Ring Announcer
Bill Spiller, T. V. Broadcaster

Main Event

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE MATCH
GENE LaBELLE vs. DORY FUNK
(N.A. Champion) (Challenger)
(Los Angeles, California) (Umberger, Texas)
SPECIAL REFEREE – The Fabulous Texan Frankie Murdock
Two out of three falls — One hour

Semi Final Event

NICK "WILDMAN" ROBERTS vs. BIG BOB GEIGEL
(Tampa, Florida) (Amarillo, Texas)
Two out of three falls — Forty five min.

Third Event

SONNY MYERS vs. ALEX PEREZ
(St. Joe, Missouri) (Amarillo, Texas)
One fall — Fifteen minute

Second Event

(Tag Team Match)
GENTLEMAN ED SHARPE and PRETTY BOY COLLINS
(Hamilton Ontario, Canada) (Dallas, Texas)
VS.
SILENTO RODRIGUEZ and RICKY ROMERO
(Monterey, Mexico) (Guadaljara, Mexico)
One fall — Fifteen min

First Event

(Girl's Match)
MISS ADA ASH vs. MISS BARBARA BAKER
(World's Strongest Woman)
(Kansas City, Mo) (Nashville, Tenn)

PAT O'CONNOR
WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPION
HERE THURSDAY APRIL 21st

TOUGH TONY MORELLI
THE ONE MAN GANG
COMING APRIL 14th

JACK O'REILLY
THE FIGHTING IRISHMAN
RETURNS APRIL 14th

NICK "WILDMAN" ROBERTS
6'4"–250 pounds
BACK TONIGHT

Pat O'Connor will return to Amarillo on April 21st, and has publicly stated that in his last appearance here against Gene LaBelle "LaBelle made me look very bad and most likely would have defeated me for the title, if he had heeded the command of the referee." "I admit he had me bewildered with his unusual style of wrestling, but, I am now going on record by stating that I would like another match with LaBelle, so I can atone for the poor showing I made against him in defense of my title, it was the first time that I ever retained my championship by a double disqualification.

PAT O'CONNOR
World's Champion

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Issue 14- Flair's 7th title/Remembering Original Sheik/Dr. Lane in Japan/Late Graham & Co./Brody in St. Louis
Issue 15- Tolos Interview/Tribute including great clips.
Issue 16- Albano Interview/Tribute including great clips.
Issue 17- NEW FORMAT- Chi. '41/Albano Interview Pt. 2
Issue 18- Nick Bells Promotions 70s/Blassie Tribute/ History of Texas Wrestling/V. Stanley meets Heenan
Issue 19- Literary giant Thomas Wolfe on wrestling (1937)!/ 5 great things to yell/Al Costello Interview

CHICAGO 1971 CONTINUED

Bob Windham returned to Chicago on November 9, teaming with BlackJack Lanza and calling himself BlackJack Mulligan. With help from Bobby Heenan, who tripped Robinson going for a suplex, they gained their first victory over the top combination of Robinson & Wilbur Snyder.

After spending most of the year wrestling in Japan, Dr.X returned to the AWA at the end of 1971 with a different personality as well. The masked man was determined to become a positive role model, as he began considering the effect his image was having on his young son. With Lars Anderson's arm in a cast, Dr.X took his place, teaming with Larry Hennig for a studio match against the AWA's leading television job men - Bill Howard & George Gadaski. Dr.X surprised the audience by wrestling in a scientific manner. Bill Howard surprised the audience even more by pinning Hennig, who was furious when Dr.X did not interfere in his behalf. Hennig's demeanor worsened when he used brassknuckles in the second fall only to have his partner point it out to the referee who promptly disqualified them. As a result Hennig and Anderson doubleteamed Dr.X.

Dr.X's popularity was assured when Luce teamed him up with Bruiser on December 11 and Crusher on December 30. On December 11, the BlackJacks used a foreign object to turn Dr.X's white mask crimson. Crusher (who had beaten Ray Stevens earlier on the card) finally jumped into the ring, giving the BlackJacks the win via disqualification. On December 30, Crusher and Dr.X got the brassknuckles away from Hennig & Anderson, only to get caught using them, for another disqualification loss.

SAY IT AIN'T SO, BIG JOHN
BY DR. MICHAEL LANO

John Tolos, Wrestling's only Golden Greek has got us all dumbfounded. I thought as his fan club pres (actually for both Chris and John) from the early 70s on, he was always shooting with me. The few times we met the last year or talked on the phone, he'd always say something along the lines of "Mike, McMahon has really messed up the biz. Look at this, look at my profession- it's like the friggin' circus for chrissakes. He's killed the business...too much damn tv wrestling..." Well, over a week ago I learned out of the blue that John would actually go to work for Vincente K. McMahonus Juniorus. And was I shocked? Yes! Surprised? Yes! Dumbfounded? No way!

John Tolos is arguably the greatest mouth this sport has ever known. Kind of culled from longtime pal-rival Freddy Blassie and a style all his own, WT and Now'ers probably thought they knew everything about T-O-L-O-S, which everyone knows is the way you spell wrestling. Adrian Adonis, Roddy Piper, Bob Orton, Greg Valentine, Ernie Ladd; literally everyone who came in contact with JT, stole his act or lines or patterned their patter after his own unique style. John still is simply the master at selling angles and getting opponents over, so how far did Vince have to look? But what an investment in the immediate future, and what an opportunity for the Golden Greek. I will never say, "Hey John, remember when you said McMahon was full of..." John is trying to put son Chris thru Dental or Medical School. If Chris, who was named after the obvious brother, gets thru dental school, John knows I'll give him a great job working for me- allowing me to take even more wrestling vacation trips. John was like a Sandy Koufax of his day- he never made the big paydays that untalented goofs like Eudy and Hellwig are making today. Anyway, God Bless him for getting back into the show- let's not hold it against him. I've long mourned the firings of Blassie, Albano, and the death of our beloved Ernie Roth (Abdullah Farouk/Wiz/Manager Mr. Kleen). These guys were always innovative, and never scripted. Hell, I'd love it if Vince had to eat it and rehire Albano- another gentleman in a sea of sharks. John will fight tooth and nail to do things his way, unscripted; and if allowed- it will mean I can finally stop fast-forwarding over bullshit interviews hoping Piper will say something great. Piper, Tolos-- perhaps some senile words from legendary Fred Blassie once in a while- along with Dibiase and Enos-Bloom; we might have some fun here. But nothing on the level of Paul E, Missy, Ross and hopefully the returns this winter of Terry Funk, Crispy Cruiser and James E. Aaahhh, my ears never had it so good. And John, we forgive you. Screw the bastard good and get lots of dough out of it. If the rumor mill is right- those Titan guys are grossly underpaid. I heard Dibiase and Hart are getting around $80,000 which is a "sin." John, I hope you suck financial resources dry. Three cheers!

JOCKBEAT

Summer Scam

The world may be secure in the knowledge that World Wrestling Federation attending physician **Dr. George Zahorian** stands convicted of ~~selling~~ drugs to wrestlers, but is it ready for WWF steroid testing—what the WWF calls an "innovative" new policy to supplement what has been, since 1987, "the most comprehensive and enforced drug program in all of professional sports"? Ready or not, details were to be announced by WWF impresario and positively ID'd steroid freak **Vince McMahon** at a Tuesday press conference at pal **Donald Trump**'s Plaza Hotel. Sources offer the following scorecard on four years of WWF cocaine-testing (itself a PR stunt concocted after an embarrassing incident in which **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** and the **Iron Sheik** were busted for marijuana and cocaine possession in New Jersey): **Tully Blanchard**, coholder of the WWF tag-team championship who flunked when he was about to jump to a rival promotion: fired. And, according to one insider, **Hercules**, middle-of-the-card stiff who flunked his test: suspended for several weeks. **Jake "the Snake" Roberts**, main eventer who twice flunked: suspended each time for six weeks, resulting in a string of no-show bookings for which his fans never got an explanation.

Meanwhile, back at the box office, **Hulk Hogan**'s bankability continues to get as flabby as his muscle tone will be once the 'roids wear off. A heavily hyped show at Busch Stadium last weekend drew a miserable crowd of only 14,500. In many markets, the August issue of the kids' magazine *Disney Adventures*, featuring an interview plugging Hogan's new movie *Suburban Commando*, is landing on newsstands with a new cover *sans* the Synthetic American. And Hogan has been pulled from most of his promotional appearances for the flick, now slated for a fall release. Don't be surprised if the next gambit from damage-control central is a tear-jerker appearance on **Arsenio** in which His Hulksterhood confesses past sins and urges youngsters to keep following his example of "training, saying your prayers, eating your vitamins."

THE SHEIK WANTS BRAZIL

The Sheik, the world-famous wrestler who throws fire-balls at opponents, will debut at the Olympic Wednesday night, July 10, and already he has challenged world champion Bobo Brazil.

Brazil says he is considering The Sheik's challenge, but will only accept it if the WWA bars The Sheik's fire-throwing tactics.

"Let's return wrestling to wrestling," says the champion. "The ring is no place for arsonists."

The Sheik, meanwhile, insists he can beat the title-holder with or without his magical fireworks.

"I'm coming to Los Angeles for only one reason," he says. "That's to win the world championship."

NEXT ISSUE IN WT&N

Dr. Mike Lano, king of dentistry, interviews Madusa Micelli, queen of woman's wrestling...A great "inside" look at the old ICW and stars such as Randy Savage, Lanny Poffo, Ron Garvin, Crusher Broomfield (aka One Man Gang) and others that have faded into history...Your great letters, FICTION by the prolific Vic Stanley... and so much more!...Upcoming issues feature interviews with some of the true legends of the mat game...

BY EVAN GINZBURG

I recently attended another disappointing show at the Meadowlands, and it got me thinking about the difference between today's wrestling and that of the 70s. I could bore you by reiterating all of today's problems: steroid abuse, the emphasis of size over ability, marketing towards children etc. Yet there was something else missing that isn't quite as easy to put my finger on.

The only word that's appropriate is "aura." Without going all "new age" on you, let me explain.

No matter how many times I'd see Bruno, Superstar, The Valiants, Strongbow, Monsoon, Koloff, or any of the 70s stars, you'd just feel an electricity when they walked down the aisle. There was a "pop", a jolt. You knew these were larger than life men who on any given night could put on a classic match. They were for all intensive purposes, super heroes and super villains, yet they still maintained credibility. Even if most weren't physically giants like the steroid freaks of today, they were still champions that garned your respect, whether you were a "mark" or "smart" as could be.

Such is not the case today...

When the sad 1991 version of the Freebirds strut down the aisle, they are campy figures. Michael Hayes at one time had that "certain something" but somewhere down that long road lost it along with Roberts and Gordy. Tom Zenk, despite being a perfect physical specimen, never had it and never will. Terry Taylor in his UWF days was a step away, but after walking around as a human bird and being pushed down long enough, he's just another guy on a card. Ricky Morton, Barry Wyndham, Arn Anderson and others, although still impressive, have lost a step or two. Without Flair, who had "it", WCW has lost the only man with the magic...

There are wrestlers in WCW that certainly have my respect but the aura is gone. A WCW show might be good for a few laughs and you may even get a good match or two if you're extremely lucky, but it's no longer an EVENT. The "aura" is gone, and in a time when a wrestler's success is measured by the size of his biceps rather than his ability, isn't that truly sad?

CURFEW BY: EVAN GINZBURG

What's up y'all? (good thing I was a Creative Writing major in college. Helps me come up with brilliant intros like that!)...One things I most want for WT&N (besides a couple thousand readers!) is an interview each issue, which I've managed to keep to the past half year. Madusa's next and more to be announced!...I was HORRORFIED by the Bash PPV. Atrocious. If these guys keep up with this type of "quality" they are DOOMED to be another TV promotion and nothing more. As Meltzer would say, some of the matches did "tell stories" though. At least 5 were TRAGEDIES and the rest were PARODIES (Thanks to Brad Burns of St. Louis for the one-liners!)... Great flick to check out- Boyz N The Hood. Don't let the title fool you- this is not your typical blaxploitation actioner. It's a sensitively written drama that's worth seeing...Thanks to Vic Stanley for sending me tape of Brains On Film. Wild cable psychotronic review show with some hilarious dudes hosting. In syndication- look for it!...Recently took my girlfriend to her first card- the Meadowlands Bash. Told me she liked it in the beginning, but got bored after a while (I was bored from beginning to end but that's another story!). She also got a kick out of the wrestling fan bus we rode to the arena. Nobody could mistake that crew with a gathering of MENSA members. Speaking of that, have you ever been FRIGHTENED by crowd shots at TV tapings? Told that some of that footage will eventually be used in a documentary exposing the ever-growing problem of in-breeding in this country!...Your contributions to any of our columns are always welcome. Also appreciate your old clippings & line up sheets which I will definitely use in future issues. Keep 'em coming... REMEMBER THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS GO UP TO $15/YR. AND $7.50/6 MONTHS AS OF LABOR DAY. RUSH THOSE RENEWALS NOW WHETHER OR NOT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS UP & I'LL HONOR THE OLD RATES ($12/YR & $6/6 MONTHS)...Jim Stafford of 1929 Barbee St. Burlington, NC 27217 is promoting "Big Time Pro Wrestling" in North Carolina...One of the most ABSURD things to come out of the steroid trials was the claim that steroids "enhanced performance." If that's true, why is most wrestling so freakin' LOUSY these days? In my day (don't I sound like I'm 75 years old when I write that!?), beer-bellied Chief Jay Strongbow used to go 2-3 falls/45 bloody minutes with the Valiants while the Anabolic Warrior and others of his ilk are huffing and puffing like dogs by the time they get down the aisle & reach the ring...Ted Field, Jr. of 924 Main St. Apt 35 Woburn, Mass 01801 has a list of over 600 video tapes for sale. He is also looking for AC/DC and KIX concerts on audio or video tape...Joel Goodhart has what promises to be the indie card of the year 9/21 for Tri-State in Philly...I am always interested in buying/trading for rasslin' autographs...Jockbeat column lifted from Village Voice. I'm not usually in the habit of using recent/already published columns, but this one was particularly scathing and felt it was of interest...Mike O'Hare of Combat Sports ($2 to PO Box 651 Gracie Station NYC 10028-0011) sells videos & other wrestling items...Rodney Leighton publishes an excellent review zine- the New Leighton Look for $2. Also a fine sheet focusing on wrestling fandom called Rod's Reflector- $1.00 Interesting/controversial/sometimes infuriating (i.e. "Evan doesn't really seem to care about his sheet" because I made the cardinal sin of admitting I'd like to make some $ at it!)/always interesting. RR#3 Pugwash, N.S., CANADA B0K 1L0...Jeff Osborne of 3420 New Harmony Rd. Evansville, In. 47720 is selling some great wrestling tapes & also hosts the always entertaining Cassette Wrestling News ($3.50 sample). Special hello to Jeff's co-host John Seaton, truly one of the great (twisted) minds of our time!...Serious jam caught live- R&B obscurity Otis Clay with Little Ed & The Blues Imperials...Brian Tramel is back in business and working on a number of projects: write to 1806 Self Circle #B, Jonesboro, Ar., 72401 for details. One new sheet chronicles the Memphis area...Except for boxing & wrestling I've lost all interest in sports. Just can't get excited by watching rich men playing kids games and receiving the respect and adulation that "everyday heroes" like teachers, firemen, financially struggling parents and others too numerous to mention should be getting. If I read about another selfish, money-hungry athlete like Strawberry or Ewing I'll scream. This society has WARPED values. End of sermon!...John Arezzi is offering Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly tapes- $6 for a sample copy (Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions, 136 North Carle Ave., Suite 125, Babylon, NY 11702). It highlights his great radio show heard Sun. morn at 10 AM on WGBB (1240) AM in N.Y...Tom Burke has some strong nostalgia features in his Global Wrestling- $1.50 plus SASE to 31 Groveland St. Springfield, MA. 01108...Steve Beverly's last count of U.S. sheets was 53! Considering the current pitiful state of wrestling, it's amazing that even a handful survive as interest is way, way down these days. Thanks to all for your support. With all the competition it's truly appreciated! Tell a friend to tell a friend about WT&N...Hope you all are having a great end of summer...See ya...

What's Happening

A Real Beau Brummel

The Mighty Atlas wants to lay claim to being the real Beau Brummel of wrestling. The power man of the mat states he purchased three suits, two top coats and many sports jackets that set him back close to a thousand dollars.

This is his statement, not ours. Nevertheless, The Mighty Atlas does invest a ton of money in wearing apparel.

A Fancy Job

The Pat O'Connor fan club issue is quite a fancy affair and credit goes to President Anita Trefzger and her competent staff. The issue we received consisted of poems, eulogies, results and Pat Chatter all about O'Connor. One song about Pat written by Fran Garfield is sung to the tune of "Wait 'til the Sun Shines Nellie."

A Roving Correspondent

Our roving correspondent, Fred Cannon, tells us of a March of Dimes show in Dallas staged by Ed McLemore on his sixteenth anniversary as a promoter in which he staged a twelve man tag team match. The bout has three two men teams on each side. Four men, two each from opposing teams were in the ring at the same time. This is the height of something or other.

SLAVE GIRL MOOLAH

Cannon also states that in Washington, D. C., Slave Girl Moolah and Candy Jean Hogan teamed against Darling Dagmar and Daisy Mae in a tag bout. This we would like to see.

Atlanta had a girls' match with Mildred Burke, the Champion, facing Catherine Simpson.

Believe It or Don't

A wrestling fan from Middlebury, Vt., writes to ask where she can get in touch with Hans Schmidt because several fans want his autograph. So, you see, there are admirers of Hans Schmidt in this world after all.

The Big Drawing Cards

As the year 1954 gets under way, it now appears that Verne Gagne, Argentina Rocca, "Killer" Kowalski, Hans Schmidt, Yukon Eric, and Pat O'Connor will be the big drawing cards in wrestling, especially in the middlewest, the northwest and the east. These grapplers are drawing terrific gross gates. Baron Michele Leone should again create a big gathering in California as he did formerly.

Colleges Have Tournaments

The collegiate mat stars are having their inning in the universities and out of the batch of college stars may come the big pro cards of tomorrow. Wrestling, though much tamer in amateur circles, nevertheless gives the athletes a background that will give them the proper developing when they are ready to turn to a pro career.

Melby Receives Votes

Dave Reynolds, the popular Salt Lake City, Utah, mat promoter reports that Bill Melby is popular in his section of the nation and has received the majority of votes in a contest ascertaining who is the most popular wrestler. Dave's trademark is, "See 'Em in the Flesh."

A Bargain in Honolulu

Honolulu's promoter Al Karasick gave the fans a bargain the other night when he staged four tag team matches on one show. Al is an aggressive promoter and floods the "States" with Western Union wires seeking top flight wrestlers for his Hawaiian mat shows.

La Belle in Retirement

Reports from Canada are to the effect that Pierre La Belle has retired. Pierre was one of the handsome athletes of the wrestling world. We are pleased to learn that he is now a successful businessman in Canada.

La Belle, who it is reported has reached his fiftieth birthday, was a very scientific and clever wrestler when he was in his prime. He was at his best some fifteen years ago while campaigning as a junior heavyweight. He never lost the twinkle in his eye and the good humor he always possessed. We wish him well.

London Makes Good

Mike London, who at one time was a junior heavyweight wrestler, is today making mat history with his successful shows in Denver. Mike stages major cards at the Stock Yards Stadium in the Colorado city. He has put Denver on the map as a big wrestling center.

THE RASSLER

WRESTLING TONIGHT

Kenneth Mocre, Promoter — Armour Stewart, Commissioner
Dan Coates, Announcer — Jay Robinson, Time Keeper
Dan N. Matheson, M.D. Commission Doctor
Buddy Harrison and Jack Johnson, Official Seconds

Monday Evening, August 18, 1958 — 8:30 P. M.

Double Main Event
For Texas Heavyweight Championship
2 of 3 Falls — 90 Minutes

Dick Steinborn, Orlando, Fla. ..... 218 lbs. (Champion) Vs. Rito Romero, Guadalajara, Mex. 208 lbs. (Challenger)

★ ★ ★

Tag Team Match, 2 of 3 Falls, 90 Minutes

Wild Bill Longson and Stu Gibson Vs Cowboy Bob Ellis and Black Hawk

★ ★ ★

Preliminaries, 1 Fall, 15 Minutes

Duke Keomuka, Honolulu ..... 218 lbs. Vs. Chico Bonales, Tampico, Mex. .... 200 lbs.

★ ★ ★

Hugh "Tex" McKenzie, Canada ..... 200 lbs. Vs. John Tolos, Canada ..... 235 lbs.

★ ★ ★

Raul Reyes, Acapulco, Mex. .... 215 lbs. Vs. Bob Corby, St. Louis, Mo. ..... 215 lbs.

★ ★ ★

Referees, Dick Raines and Larry Chene

Materials graciously supplied by Dr. Mike Lano- dentist to the stars! WT&N readers- we welcome your nostalgia clippings! Share them with a large, appreciative audience...